VZCZCXYZ0001 PP RUEHWEB

DE RUEHLP #1380 1381056 ZNY CCCCC ZZH P 181056Z MAY 07 FM AMEMBASSY LA PAZ TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3608 INFO RUEHAC/AMEMBASSY ASUNCION 6784 RUEHBO/AMEMBASSY BOGOTA 4121 RUEHBR/AMEMBASSY BRASILIA 8011 RUEHBU/AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES 5256 RUEHCV/AMEMBASSY CARACAS 2495 RUEHPE/AMEMBASSY LIMA 2627 RUEHMN/AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO 4611 RUEHOT/AMEMBASSY OUITO 5125 RUEHSG/AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO 9718 RUEHUB/USINT HAVANA 0322 RHMFISS/HQ USSOUTHCOM MIAMI FL RUMIAAA/USCINCSO MIAMI FL RHEHNSC/NSC WASHINGTON DC

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STATE FOR WHA/CCA AND WHA/AND LPETRONI

E.O. 12958: DECL: 05/18/2017

TAGS: ETRD ETTC PREL BL SUBJECT: BOLIVIA: INPUT FOR REVIEW OF TITLE III OF THE

LIBERTAD ACT

REF: A. STATE 65523 •B. LA PAZ 1281

Classified By: Amb. Philip S. Goldberg for reasons 1.4 (b) and (d)

- (C) The following responses are keyed to the questions in ref ${\tt A:}$
- -- Bolivia has no significant investments in Cuba.
- -- Bolivia and Cuba signed a limited Economic Cooperation Agreement in May 1995. The accord offers preferential tariff treatment to specified goods from each country but has not generated significant increases in bilateral trade. The GOB signed a "People's Trade Agreement" with Cuba and Venezuela in April 2006 and became party to a largely symbolic pact meant to advance economic, political, and cultural integration. GOB statistics indicate Bolivian exports to Cuba totaled only \$500 in 2006 and remain at zero in 2007.
- -- Cuba offers limited scholarships to Bolivian students seeking to study at Cuban universities. Cuba has paid for several dozen Bolivians to travel to Cuba for eye surgeries and other medical treatment and has sent an estimated 2,000 medical personnel to Bolivia, of which 1,200 claim to be doctors (ref B). Cuba has also funded 11 ophthalmology centers and announced an expansion of medical outreach through the funding of 23 additional hospitals. Cuba also helped launch a literacy campaign in March 2006.
- -- Bolivia has not worked to promote the advancement of democracy and human rights in Cuba. The GOB is increasingly aligned with the Cuban government and is not likely to make public statements supportive of civil society or critical of human rights abuses. The GOB is unlikely to take actions which could be perceived as subversive by the Cuban government.
- -- President Morales attended the September 2006 Summit of Non-Aligned Nations in Cuba, and Cuban Foreign Minister Felipe Perez Roque visited La Paz in May 2007. Cuban National Assembly President Ricardo Alarcon also visited Bolivia earlier this year.